

Voluntary - Public

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India

Post: New Delhi

Monsoon Report (3)

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

Although there was some improvement in the monsoon activity during the week ended July 1, most parts of the country continued to receive significantly below normal rains, impairing planting operations of kharif season crops, such as rice, coarse cereals, pulses, soybeans, and peanut. Cumulative rainfall during June 1 to July 1 was 46 percent below the long-term average, with the northern plains and central India worst hit. If rains continue to elude this region, the window of opportunity for planting of normal crops such as rice, millet, soybeans, and peanut will shrink.

General Information:

While the Indian Meteorological Department claims that the monsoon has now covered almost the entire country, rains during the week ended July 1, 2009, was significantly below normal, with only 13 of the 36 weather subdivisions receiving normal or above normal rains. The monsoon activity during the week was mostly confined to southernmost parts of the country, north eastern India, and some areas of north, west, and central India (Figure 1 attached). The rest of the country received significantly below normal rains, ranging from 22 percent to 88

percent.

Area weighted cumulative rainfall during June 1 to July 1 was 46 percent below normal, with only 6 of the 36 weather subdivisions receiving normal or above normal rains (Figure 2 attached), compared with 28 during the corresponding period of last year. The northern plains and central India were worst hit, with rainfall deficiency ranging from 50 to 80 percent. Unless there is an improvement in the monsoon activity in coming weeks, planting of most crops such as rice, soybeans, millet, and sorghum will be in jeopardy. Official data show that progressive planting of most crops up to July 3 this year was lagging well behind last year's level, with the exception of pulses, sunflower, and cotton (Table 1).

Progressive Planting of Major Kharif Season Crops On July 3, 2009

	Progressive Planting (Million Ha)		Percent Change
	2009	2008	
Rice	3.81	5.18	-26.5
Sorghum	0.36	0.66	-56.5
Millet	0.66	7.89	-91.7
Corn	1.42	1.84	-32.9
Pulses	0.66	0.41	+61.0
Peanut	0.85	2.07	-59.0
Soybean	1.42	4.35	-67.4
Sunflower	0.16	0.11	+45.4
Cotton	1.88	1.74	+0.80
Sugarcane	4.22	4.35	-3.0

Note: For details see: <http://pib.nic.in/archieve/others/2009/jul/r20090706001.pdf>